

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3215

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, MOPS, LE, IS

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: CONVERSATION WITH BOUTROS JUNE 12 RE
RELATIONS WITH HADDAD

REF: TEL AVIV 7347; JERUSALEM 1595

1. I CALLED ON BOUTROS AT NOON JUNE 12 FOR UPDATE ON SOUTH
LEBANON SITUATION. HE SAID THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING RELATIONS
WITH HADDAD.

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2. BOUTROS SAID THAT GENERAL KHOURY HAD SENT ORDERS TO MAJOR
HADDAD AT NOON JUNE 11 INSTRUCTING HIM (1) TO COOPERATE FULLY
WITH UNIFIL WHEN IT ENTERED HIS AREA OF OPERATIONS FOLLOWING
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL; (2) TO WITHDRAW ALL HIS FORCES TO THEIR
BARRACKS; AND (3) TO TURN OVER ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY
TO UNIFIL. HADDAD HAD REPLIED SAME AFTERNOON SAYING HE AND MEN
UNDER HIS CONTROL WOULD OBEY THESE ORDERS. HADDAD POINTED

OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE OTHER ARMED ELEMENTS IN HIS AREA OF OPERATIONS WHO WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE TO HIM AND HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THEIR ACTIONS. BOUTROS SAID THIS WAS OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN THE AREA, WHICH HE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 1,000 COMPARED WITH APPROXIMATELY 600 TROOPS UNDER HADDAD'S CONTROL. BOUTROS SAID THIS LOOKED TO HIM LIKE A PLOY WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN HADDAD AND THE ISRAELIS TO CAUSE TROUBLE IN SOUTH LEBANON. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO A MESSAGE THAT WAS HANDED TO HIM AS WE TALKED. THIS MESSAGE QUOTED AN ISRAEL SPOKESMAN, REFERRING TO ERSKINE'S REMARKS ON SATURDAY, AS SAYING THAT ISRAELIS COULD NOT TURN OVER TO UNIFIL AN AREA THEY HAD NEVER OCCUPIED. BOUTROS ASKED THAT USG INTERVENE WITH ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ASK THEM TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE SO THAT CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, AS WELL AS HADDAD'S TROOPS, WOULD COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL FORCES.

3. BOUTROS SAID THAT SARKIS WAS ALSO THINKING OF TALKING DIRECTLY TO CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL ABOUT THE MILITIA PROBLEM. IF HE DID SO, HOWEVER, CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL WOULD CERTAINLY DEMAND SOMETHING IN RETURN FOR THEIR COOPERATION AND GOL COULD NOT AFFORD TO MAKE ANY DEALS WITH THEM AT THIS TIME. HE THEREFORE ASKED IF I WOULD CONSIDER SPEAKING TO THESE TWO MEN. I REPLIED THAT I HAD DISCUSSED RELATIONS BETWEEN CHRISTIAN MILITIAS AND UNIFIL WITH BACHIR GEMAYEL ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO AND HAD EXPLAINED TO BACHIR THAT IN MY VIEW CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON HAD EVERYTHING TO GAIN AND NOTHING

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TO LOSE BY COOPERATING WITH UNIFILM I TOLD BOUTROS I THOUGHT THAT AN APPROACH FROM SARKIS TO CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND MORE APPROPRIATE THAN AN APPROACH BY ME. BOUTROS SAID THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY ADVISE THE PRESIDENT TO CALL IN CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL TOMORROW AFTER THEY HAD RESULTS OF THE ILMAC MEETING (SEE BELOW).

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS, BOUTROS SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MEETING BETWEEN ERSKINE AND KHOURY YESTERDAY, JUNE 11. HOWEVER, ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR AN ILMAC MEETING IN NAKOURA AT 4 P.M. TODAY (JUNE 12). BOUTROS SAID GOL IS ALSO SENDING LAF G-2 JOHNNY ABDO TO MEET WITH GENERAL ERSKINE AT 3:30 P.M., PRIOR TO THE ILMAC MEETING, IN ORDER TO PASS TO ERSKINE HADDAD'S RESPONSE TO GENERAL KHOURY'S ORDERS. ABDO MIGHT ALSO ATTEND ILMAC MEETING, DEPENDING ON WHO ELSE WAS THERE. BOUTROS SEEMED UNCERTAIN ABOUT HOW MUCH DISCUSSION THERE HAD BEEN TO DATE BETWEEN UNIFIL OFFICERS AND HADDAD CONCERNING UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, BUT HE SAID HADDAD'S RESPONSE WOULD SURELY PROMPT ERSKINE AND HIS STAFF TO BEGIN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT DIRECTLY WITH HADDAD AND PERHAPS CHRISTIAN MILITIA LEADERS AS WELL. BOUTROS CONFIRMED THAT GOL HAS INSTRUCTED UNIFIL

TO TREAT HADDAD AS A LEBANESE MILITARY OFFICER WITH DE FACTO
CONTROL IN THE AREA, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT AS THE OFFICIAL GOL
REPRESENTATIVE IN SOUTH LEBANON.

5. COMMENT. BOUTROS IS OBVIOUSLY VERY SUSPICIOUS THAT DESPITE
HADDAD'S RESPONSE THAT HE WILL OBEY ORDERS, THE CHRISTIAN
MILITIAS, WHICH IN HIS VIEW ARE PRIMARILY UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL,
WILL BE USED BY THE ISRAELIS TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR BOTH
UNIFIL AND THE GOL. I TOLD BOUTROS THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS HAD
ALREADY URGED WEIZMAN TO ADVISE HADDAD THAT HE SHOULD COOPERATE
WITH UNIFIL, AND BOUTROS WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE. HE IS VERY
ANXIOUS THAT WE PASS THE SAME MESSAGE TO WEIZMAN REGARDING THE
CHRISTIAN MILITIAS AND ASKED ME TO GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THIS SUBJECT.
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